R e m a r k s

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15, 17-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by cited art. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over cited art. Applicants respectfully disagree with the reasons for the rejections, and respectfully traverse the rejections.

The invention is directed to a technique for dynamically generating a user interface for a computer system or network that provides information to various users. The format and content of the user interface are customized to provide different types of information to different categories of users. For example, in one embodiment, in which the system is used in a hospital, the user interface may present patient records to a doctor, employment records to an administrator, etc. Similarly, the information provided may be customized based on other parameters. For example, if a doctor requests information relating to a patient who is a young child, the user interface may present a recommended schedule of inoculations; if the patient is an older woman, the user interface may display test results from a recent mammogram, etc.

Accordingly, when a user logs onto the system, one or more items of user information are received. This information may pertain to the user's identity and/or to other parameters, such as the name of a patient. Based on the user information, one or more rules are selected and retrieved from a database. The rules may include, for example (and in plain English for clarity), "Display patient data only if USER = "Dr. Ainsworth." The rules are then executed to generate presentation data for the user interface. Presentation data may include, for example, patient records retrieved from a database, or a recommended schedule of inoculations. The presentation data is used to construct the user interface.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15, 17-20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Moshfeghi. Moshfeghi teaches a method for dynamically generating web pages and other data objects using server scripts (col. 2, lines 34-37). According to Moshfeghi, server scripts first "check user access privileges, user preferences, usage log, and environmental

profile" information (Moshfeghi, col. 2, lines 43-45). The result of this process, as Moshfeghi explains, "is rules for retrieving computer based patient records (CPR) information and rules for generation of web pages." (Moshfeghi, col. 2, lines 43-50).

Independent Claim 1

The applicants acknowledge that Moshfeghi discloses utilizing rules to generate web pages (Moshfeghi, col. 2, lines 43-50). Moshfeghi also discloses storing "personalizing information" in a database (Moshfeghi, col. 2, lines 34-40). However, nowhere does Moshfeghi teach or suggest "rules stored in one or more databases," as claim 1 requires.

Neither is it inherent in Moshfeghi that the "rules" are stored in a "database." The "database" recited in claim 1 does not comprise any and all storage media; it specifically stores rules that are "modifiable without changes to the compiled server program." (specification, page 20, lines 11-14). The database may be, for example, a database maintained by a relational database management system. (specification, page 20, lines 21-23).

Storing rules in a "database", as is recited by claim 1, offers distinct advantages over other methods of maintaining rules (such as, e.g., storing rules in the form of compiled computer code within the server source code). As mentioned above, rules that are stored in a "database" may be modified, added, or deleted without affecting the compiled server source code that evaluates them (specification, page 13, lines 18-20). New rules or modifications to existing rules can be made by a network administrator, or a user if given appropriate access rights (specification, page 13, lines 20-22). When a new customer or group is given access to the system, or if an existing customer has new needs, new user presentation rules can be added or modified per customer request without having to change the compiled server source code. (specification, page 13, lines 22-25). These benefits cannot be obtained by, for example, storing rules in the form of compiled code within the server source code. Because Moshfeghi fails to disclose or suggest "rules" stored in a "database," claim 1, together with its dependent claims (2-5), are patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 6, 9, and 10 (as amended)

Independent claims 6, 9, and 10 (as amended), share certain claim limitations with claim 1. In particular, these claims include the claim limitation, "rules stored in one or more databases." Accordingly, the arguments set forth above for claim 1 apply equally to claims 6, 9, and 10 (as amended). Thus, claim 6 and its dependent claims (7-8), claim 9, and amended claim 10 are patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claim 11

Claim 11 recites a "database storing executable user presentation rules." Because this claim limitation is similar to the claim limitation of claim 1 discussed above, the arguments set forth above apply equally to claim 11. Accordingly, claim 11 and its dependent claim (12-14) are patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 15, 18, and 22

Independent claims 15, 18, and 22 share certain claim limitations with claim 1. In particular, these claims include the claim limitation, "rules stored in one or more databases." Accordingly, the arguments set forth above for claim 1 apply equally to claim 15 and its dependent claims (16-17), claim 18 and its dependent claims (19-21), and claim 22. Thus, claim 15 and its dependent claims (16-17), claim 18 and its dependent claims (19-21), claim 22 are patentable over the cited art.
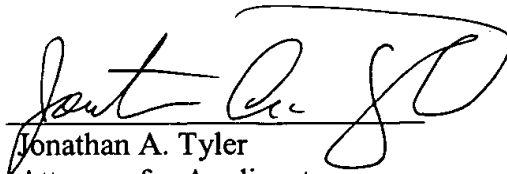
Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Dependent claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moshfeghi in view of Yu. For the reasons stated above, independent claims 1, 6, 11, 15, and 18 are patentable. Accordingly, dependent claims 4 and 5 (which depend on claim 1), claims 7 and 8 (which depend on claim 6), claim 14 (which depends on claim 11), claim 16 (which depends on claim 15), and claim 21 (which depends from claim 18), are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 1-22 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

By _____

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